



Welcome
to
1st Grade

Dear Parents,

The 2018-2019 school year is about to begin, and your child will start a very important stage in his/her educational career. Together we can make First Grade an exciting and worthwhile year for you and your child.

The children will become much more independent and responsible both socially and academically. They will have homework nightly starting in September, as well as outside projects to enhance their learning experiences. Our goal this year is to help your child build self-confidence and self-esteem, not only in social settings but in academic areas as well. We hope to instill confidence in each child as they attempt to learn new skills and we encourage them to always give their personal best in everything they do.

This booklet has helpful information to make your child's First Grade journey a successful one. Please take time to read it over carefully. If you have any questions or concerns during the year, please contact me to discuss them.

Sincerely,
Miss Brage, Mrs. Fisher, and Mrs. Mount

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION



ABSENCES

When your child is absent, please call the school office or e-mail the teacher and cc the office regarding why your child will not be attending for that day. School work missed due to absences will be provided usually when the student returns to school as stated in school policy. If a student is absent more than one day, his/her work may be picked up at the end of the day. Please call and leave a message before 10:00, or send word with an older child. Doing this early in the day assures that the teacher will have time to gather all needed materials.



MORNING EXPECTATIONS

Children are expected to be in the room when the bell rings at 8:00 a.m. If this is not the case, your child will receive a tardy and have to catch up on their morning work. Work missed may be caught up at recess. To strengthen your child's independence, we encourage parents to allow their children to enter the building and prepare for the day on their own. This includes hanging backpacks, coats, and other belongings in an assigned location and following morning classroom procedures to prepare for the day.



BIRTHDAYS

All students will be recognized on their birthday or closest school day. Announcements of all students' birthdays will be announced over the intercom and displayed on the bulletin board near the office. Summer birthdays will be celebrated on their half birthday. In keeping with the health policy of the school, snacks for the day will not be allowed. In our classroom, the student will be given special recognition.



BOOK ORDERS

Book club orders will be sent home throughout the year. Do not feel obligated to purchase these. This is a service we offer parents as a way to have age appropriate reading materials. Purchasing these books also allows for us to keep an updated classroom library, as Scholastic gives us points with which to order classroom materials. Details of ordering by check or on-line will be included with each set of order forms sent home.



DAILY FOLDERS

All school information and assignments will be placed in their folders daily. All papers should be removed and the empty folder returned to school each day. PLEASE check your child's backpack daily as communication and information may be timely.



HOMEWORK

Homework is an extension of the learning experiences that the children have during the instructional day. Homework folders will be sent home on the first school day of the week starting September 10, 2018, with instructions to follow for each day. Completed homework should be sent back in the Homework folder on Thursday morning. On Thursday evening your child will work on spelling words and read. Homework will be approximately 10 to 20 minutes per day. In addition, all students are expected to read at least 10 minutes per day. This can be with you or independently. Any homework that is missing or incomplete will be completed at school during recess or other free-time activities. During 2nd semester, your child will have homework sent home daily to help them prepare for 2nd grade.



READING AND MATH SKILLS

First grade does use the Accelerated Reader program. As this is an individualized program, not all students will begin at the same time or at the same level. Your child's teacher will start him/her when she feels it is academically appropriate. All students will be placed in this program by 2nd semester.



NEWSLETTERS

A school newsletter (Panther Prints) will be available on the school website ONCE per MONTH. Class newsletters will be sent when there is class information to be shared. Both Panther Prints and the class newsletter will be posted on the school's website (www.olplsschool.org)



RECESS

First grade will be going outside for recess before lunch (30 min.) and then again in the afternoon (20 min). Recess is important because it allows the students to interact with peers and get some exercise. Therefore, students will be going outside, unless there is extreme heat, or the temperature/wind chill is below 25 degrees. As we approach cooler days, please be sure that your child wears appropriate outer clothing. Only students who have a note will be allowed to stay inside. If they must remain inside longer than three days, they must have a letter from a doctor. **Please visibly label all clothing that comes to school and might be removed during the day with your child's name.**



HEALTHY SNACKS AND WATER BOTTLES

Because our lunch is at 11:00am, students may bring a *healthy* snack to eat in the afternoon. Please see attached list of healthy snacks. Please remember that some students have food allergies. Snacks will not be provided for the whole class.

We encourage your child to bring a water bottle to school. While students will be given frequent water breaks in the classroom and at the water fountain, it is important for the students to be attentive during instructional time, to avoid frequent disruptions. Please be sure that the bottle is clearly labeled with your child's name, and fill the bottle before coming to school. **We ask that you only send a bottle with a pull-top lid to avoid large spills in the classroom.**



MASS

We are excited to be sitting with a 7th Grade buddy this year. You are more than welcome to join us for our weekly Mass, typically on Wednesday at 8:15. We do ask that if you want your child to sit with you, please meet your child in the back of the church **before** we sit down in the pews. After that point, it becomes very disruptive to come pick them up. Also, please have them rejoin the class at the end of Mass. This helps them transition back to school mode. Thanks for your cooperation.



WEBPAGES

On the school website you will find teacher pages that provide you with current information and additional resources. In addition, our textbooks have links that are good, fun resources that directly reinforcement our curriculum.

They are:

Math - <https://www-k6.thinkcentral.com/ePC/start.do>

Reading- <https://www-k6.thinkcentral.com/ePC/start.do>

Science - <https://connected.mcgraw-hill.com/connected/login.do>

AR Book Fine - <http://www.arbookfind.com/UserType.aspx>



APPOINTMENTS

We are here for your child. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at school (816) 251-1150 during school hours. Or, you can reach us via email: kbrage@olpls.org, kfisher@olpls.org, kmount@olpls.org. We make every effort to reach you within 24 hours.